(b) whether Government is going to make use of these agencies for preempting and combating terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Deptt. of Telecom has not licenced operation of private electronic intelligence gathering agencies in India.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Improvement in Telecom Service in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

1587. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monitoring is done by Andhra Pradesh Telecom as to how calls emanating from small towns in various districts are actually connected by trunk operators;

(b) if so, the ratio of trunk calls booked from rural areas and the number of which are actually connected;

(c) whether any monitoring has been done in West Godavari District Telecom in the last three years;

(d) wheher it is a fact that trunk calls booked from small towns and major panchayats of West Godavari to out of State destinations are frequently un-connected; and

(e) if so, whether any directions have been issued to the District Telecom authorities to attend to complaints immediately in this respect and what other steps are being taken to improve telecom services in West Godavari district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NADU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 40 per cent of the total trunk calls booked per day are from rural areas out of which about 85 per cent are effective.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply at (c) and (d) above. However, suitable instructions exist and the same have been reiterated for further improvement of telecom services.

Theft of telephone equipments and cables from Ballabgarh and Faridabad exchanges

1588. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone equipments and cables etc. worth lakhs of rupees have been stolen from the Ballabgarh and other telephone exchanges in Faridabad as per report appearing in the press recently;

(b) if so, what are the details of the equipments and telephone cables lost and their value;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made to fix the responsibility on the local telephone staff for lack of vigilance and also effort made to recover the stolen telephone equipments; and

(d) if so, what are the findings of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) There was a cable theft in Ballabgarh Sub-Division in April, 1993. The details are:

Under-ground junction cable 800 pairs value Rs. 13,600.00

Underground junction cable 200 pairs value Rs. 8,700.00

(c) F.I.R. lodged with the Police authority at Faridabad.

(d) Case is yet under investigation with the Police authority.

MSTD facilities in east Godavari District

1589. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of various places in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in West and East Godavari Districts which were given MSTD facility in 1993;

(b) what are the names of places for which the SMTD facility was withdrawn or made in operational;

(c) whether the emphasis will be given to rural areas in Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to restore MSTD or one way STD facility to such places and raise the level of efficiency and reliability in operation of MSTD facility in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Nil, Sir. All the Manual Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh have been automatised and hence provision of MSTD facility does not arise.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Removal of subsidy on post card

1590. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investigations prove that 65 per cent of post cards are utilised by businessmen for commercial purposes or by people who are comfortably off;

(b) if so, what is the rationality of giving subsidy on post cards;

(c) what is the actual cost of a post card; and the amount of annual loss suffered by Government in this respect;

(d) whether there is any proposal to remove subsidy on post cards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No Sir.

(b) In view of part (a), reply is not necessary.

(c) Actual cost of a post card is 129.98 paise per unit and the annual loss is Rs. 73.79 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

दिल्ली और बम्बई में एम०टी० एन० एल० में भ्रष्टाचार

1591. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महानगर टेलीफोन निगम बनाने के बाद दिल्ली टेलीफोन एवं बंबई टेलीफोन में भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ा है ;

(ख) अगर हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) महानगर टेलीफोन निगम में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार के संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) और (ख) टेलीफोन नेटवर्क और सुविधाओं में पिछले 7 वर्षों में तीव्रता से विस्तार हुआ है और इसके परिणाम स्वरूप सम्भवतः कदाचार के मार्गों में वृद्धि हुई है ।